

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, June 8, 1880, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. Mr. Pollok's office — Washington, June 8th, 1880. My darling May:

I am waiting here — a prisoner — for Mr. Pollok. He called upon me this morning while I was taking a bath and as I did not make my appearance here till 4 o'clock p. m. he has left word with his cl,rks to keep me here a prisoner till he returns. So here I am — and the best thing I can do is to write a few lines to you my dear. I was glad to get your telegram in Philadelphia. I hope you received the parcel forwarded from the hotel. Poor little Elsie! — Please get Adelaide to show her how to use her spade and bucket and let her make sand pies upon the shore to her hearts content. I have been busy writing letters today and just as I was starting for Mr. Pollok's office — the Census-man appeared and I had to answer all questions about the family. I gave your age as 22. Is that right? Poor little baby Marion — he asked me her name! — and would not accept her as un-named. He said it was necessary to give some name or other — but that it was not binding to retain the name given as a permanent thing. Under these circumstances what could I do? Without your assistance or co-operation — I was obliged — forced — compelled — to name our little one — and I do hope — trust — beg — intreat — implore — that you won't find fault with me for so doing.

Poor little neglected baby — I registered her under the name of — I think I hear Mr. Pollok coming and must leave the rest to a later hour — No it is not he — so I better continue. I 2 registered her under the name of — Upon second thoughts — I will preserve a discreet silence — until I know what name you would have registered under similar circumstances! — Please let me know — dear Mrs. Indecision!

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Please tell Adelaide that the American Government want to know her full name — age — birthplace and where her parents were born. Please answer these queries by return of mail.

Please give me the same particulars about your father and mother and Berta and Grace.

Mr. Pollok has just come in. Good news for Charlie. His patent and Tainter's are both allowed and ordered to issue. This seems to me to indicate — that Charlie is going to win his wife himself and give her a fortune as well as a husband.

In haste.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, The Brighton, Atlantic City, N. J.